

What is claimed is:

1. A retrieval apparatus, comprising:
 - a question sentence input unit receiving a
 - 5 question sentence for retrieval;
 - a retrieval execution unit retrieving data from a database and extracting data similar to the question sentence inputted by the question sentence input unit;
 - a word contribution degree calculation unit
 - 10 calculating a contribution degree of a word contributing to extraction by the retrieval execution unit in a retrieval result extracted by the retrieval execution unit; and
 - a word contribution degree output unit outputting
 - 15 the contribution degree calculated by the word contribution degree calculation unit together with a corresponding word.
2. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 1,
- 20 wherein
 - said word contribution degree output unit outputs the corresponding word in a display format reflecting the contribution degree.
- 25 3. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said word contribution degree output unit outputs the corresponding word using a font reflecting the contribution degree.

- 5 4. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said word contribution degree output unit outputs the corresponding word in a character size reflecting the contribution degree.

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5. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said word contribution degree output unit outputs the corresponding word in a color reflecting the contribution degree.

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6. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said word contribution degree output unit is a display device.

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7. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said retrieval execution unit divides the question sentence inputted by said question sentence

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input unit into words, retrieves data from the database for each of the divided words and extracts data similar to the word.

- 5 8. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, wherein

said word contribution degree calculation unit further comprises

- 10 a high/low-similarity group acquisition unit obtaining both a group of documents with high similarity a group of documents with low similarity from the retrieval result extracted by said retrieval execution unit; and

- 15 a contribution degree calculation unit calculating a difference between a ratio of the divided word in the high-similarity group and the ratio of the word in the low-similarity group and designating the difference as a contribution degree of the word.

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9. A retrieval apparatus for extracting data similar to a question word by retrieval and displaying a contribution degree of a word contributing to the extraction together with a corresponding word on a
25 screen, comprising:

a word designation unit designating a word displayed on the screen; and

a weighting unit weighting the word designated by the word designation unit for the retrieval.

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10. A retrieval apparatus, comprising:

a question sentence input unit inputting a question sentence for retrieval;

10 a retrieval execution unit dividing the inputted question sentence inputted by the question sentence input unit into words, retrieving data from a database storing data to be retrieved for each of the divided words, and extracting data similar to the question sentence inputted by said question sentence input unit;

15 a word contribution degree calculation unit calculating a contribution degree of a word contributing to the extraction by the retrieval execution unit in a retrieval result extracted by the retrieval execution unit;

20 a word contribution degree output unit displaying the contribution degree calculated by the word contribution degree calculation unit together with a corresponding word on a screen;

a word designation unit designating the word
25 displayed on the screen; and

a weighting unit weighting the word designated by the word designation unit for the retrieval.

11. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 9,
5 wherein

said weighting unit weights a word so that data of the retrieval result can be ranked as the top.

12. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 9,
10 further comprising:

a re-retrieval execution unit retrieving data from a database storing data to be retrieved and extracting data similar to a word weighted by said weighting unit.

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13. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a re-retrieval execution unit retrieving data from a database storing data to be retrieved and
20 extracting data similar to a word weighted by said weighting unit,
wherein

said weighting unit sequentially weights a plurality of prescribed data of the retrieval result
25 so that the data of the retrieval result can be ranked

as the top and designates an average of the plurality of weights of the plurality of data as a weight value of the word.

- 5 14. A retrieval method, comprising:
receiving a question sentence for retrieval;
retrieving data from a database storing data to
be retrieved;
extracting data similar to the inputted question
10 sentence;
calculating a contribution degree of a word
contributing to the extraction in the extracted
retrieval result; and
outputting the calculated contribution degree
15 together with a corresponding word.
15. The retrieval method according to claim 14,
wherein
the corresponding word is outputted in a display
20 format reflecting the contribution degree.
16. The retrieval method according to claim 14,
wherein
the corresponding word is outputted using a font
25 reflecting the contribution degree.

17. The retrieval method according to claim 15,
wherein

the corresponding word is outputted to a display
5 device.

18. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 14,
wherein

the inputted question sentence is divided into
10 words, the database is retrieved for each of the divided
words and similar data are extracted.

19. The retrieval apparatus according to claim 18,
wherein the calculation

15 obtains both a group of documents with high
similarity and a group of documents with low similarity
from the retrieval result,

calculates a difference between a ratio of each
divided word in the high-similarity group and a ratio
20 of the word in the low-similarity group and designates
the difference as a contribution degree of the divided
word.

20. A retrieval method for extracting data similar to
25 a question word by retrieval and displaying a

contribution degree of a word contributing to the extraction together with a corresponding word on a screen, comprising:

- 5 designating a word displayed on the screen; and
 weighting the designated word for the retrieval.

21. A retrieval method, comprising:

- inputting a question sentence for retrieval;
 dividing the inputted question sentence into
10 words;

 retrieving data from a database storing data to be retrieved for each of the divided words;

 extracting data similar to the inputted question sentence;

- 15 calculating a contribution degree of a word contributing to the extraction in the extracted retrieval result;

 displaying the calculated contribution degree together with a corresponding word on a screen;

- 20 designating the word displayed on the screen; and
 weighting the designated word for the retrieval.

22. The retrieval method according to claim 20, wherein

- 25 the weight is attached so that the data of the

retrieval result can be ranked as the top.

23. The retrieval method according to claim 20,
wherein

5 a database storing data to be retrieved is
retrieved and

data similar to the words to which the weight is
attached are extracted.

10 24. The retrieval method according to claim 20,
wherein

a database storing data to be retrieved is
retrieved,

15 data similar to the words to which the weight is
attached are extracted,

the weight is sequentially attached to a plurality
of prescribed data of the retrieval result so that the
data of the retrieval result can be ranked as the top
and an average of the plurality of weight of the
20 plurality of data is designated as a weight value of
the word.

25. A retrieval program for enabling a computer to
execute a function, the function comprising:

25 receiving a question sentence for retrieval;

retrieving data from a database storing data to
be retrieved;

extracting data similar to the inputted question
sentence;

5 calculating a contribution degree of a word
contributing to the extraction in the extracted
retrieval result; and

outputting the calculated contribution degree
together with a corresponding word.

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26. A retrieval program which enables a computer for
extracting data similar to a question sentence by
retrieval and displaying a contribution degree of a word
contributing to the extraction together with a
15 corresponding word, to execute a function, the function
comprising:

designating the word displayed on the screen; and
weighting the designated word for the retrieval.

20 27. A retrieval program for enabling a computer to
execute a function, the function comprising:

inputting a question sentence for retrieval;
dividing the inputted question sentence into
words;

25 retrieving data from a database storing data to

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be retrieved for each of the divided words;

extracting data similar to the inputted question sentence;

calculating a contribution degree of a word
 5 contributing to the extraction in the extracted
 retrieval result;

displaying the calculated contribution degree together with a corresponding word on a screen;

designating the word displayed on the screen; and
 10 weighting the designated word for the retrieval.

28. A retrieval apparatus, comprising:

question sentence input means for inputting a question sentence for retrieval;

15 retrieval execution means for retrieving data from a database storing data to be retrieved and extracting data similar to the question sentence inputted by the question sentence input means;

word contribution degree calculation means for
 20 calculating a contribution degree of a word contributing to extraction by the retrieval execution means in a retrieval result extracted by the retrieval execution means; and

word contribution degree output means for
 25 outputting the contribution degree calculated by the

word contribution degree calculation means together
with a corresponding word.

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